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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

CEREMONY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY WORLD LEADERS AT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Letter dated 23 August 1990 from the representatives of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the six initiators of the World Summit for Children, we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Ceremony for the presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by world leaders at the World Summit for Children" in the agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is attached hereto (see annex).

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Given its essentially political nature, we consider that the item should be allocated to the plenary of the General Assembly and that it should be considered by the plenary on 1 October 1990 to allow the Declaration and Plan of Action for the Summit for Children to be appropriately acknowledged by the plenary.

(Signed) H.E. L. Yves FORTIER
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Canada to the
United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Noumou DIAKITE
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Mali to the
United Nations

(Signed) Mr. Shaukat UMER
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the
United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Amre M. MOUSSA
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Egypt to the
United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Dr. Jorge MONTAÑO
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Mexico to the
United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Jan ELIASSON
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Sweden to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The World Summit for Children, scheduled for 30 September and 1 October, will bring together a projected 80 or more Heads of State/Government in order to give children a better future. The invitations to attend were issued by the Secretary-General, on behalf of the six initiators of the Summit, and the event will be held using the premises and services of the United Nations in New York.

2. The Summit will focus on universal problems affecting children, including protection of their health from readily preventable diseases, adequate nutrition, education, homelessness and abandonment, drugs, the impact of AIDS, child labour and exploitation, and basic community services. One primary objective of the Summit was to accelerate the process of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. More than 20 countries have already ratified the Convention, bringing it into force on 2 September.

3. The Summit will conclude with the adoption of a Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a Plan of Action. It is envisaged that the former will establish the commitment of world leaders at the highest level to give priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development and will establish a 10-point programme to accomplish it. The Plan of Action will provide a framework for more specific national and international undertakings to benefit children.

4. The initiators propose that the Declaration and the Plan of Action be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in a "ceremony" on the morning of 1 October. The item would be entitled "Ceremony for the presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by world leaders at the World Summit for Children". It would not be a substantive item and would not become an ongoing item for the next session of the Assembly.